



Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Member Organizations

**The Umbrella Center for
Domestic Violence Services**
Ansonia, CT

The Center for Family Justice
Bridgeport, CT

**The Center for Empowerment
and Education**
Danbury, CT

**Domestic Violence Program
United Services**
Dayville, CT

**Network Against Domestic
Abuse**
Enfield, CT

**Domestic Abuse Services
Greenwich YWCA**
Greenwich, CT

Interval House
Hartford, CT

**Chrysalis Domestic Violence
Services**
Meriden, CT

New Horizons
Middletown, CT

Prudence Crandall Center
New Britain, CT

**The Umbrella Center for
Domestic Violence Services**
New Haven, CT

Safe Futures
New London, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Norwalk, CT

Women's Support Services
Sharon, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center
Stamford, CT

Susan B. Anthony Project
Torrington, CT

Safe Haven
Waterbury, CT

**Domestic Violence Program
United Services**
Willimantic, CT

Testimony Regarding

SB 16, AA Addressing Gun Violence and Juvenile Crime

Judiciary Committee March 14, 2022

Good afternoon Senators Winfield, Flexer and Kissel, Representatives Stafstrom, Blumenthal and Fishbein, and members of the committee. CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence (CCADV) is the state's leading voice for victims of domestic violence and those who serve them. Our members provide essential services to nearly 40,000 victims of domestic violence each year. Services provided include 24-hour crisis response, emergency shelter, housing advocacy and resources, safety planning, counseling, support groups and court advocacy.

CCADV supports Sections 25 – 27 of Senate Bill 16. These sections state that permits to carry a pistol or revolver, eligibility certificates for a pistol or revolver, and eligibility certificates for long guns may not be issued to individuals convicted of a felony or misdemeanor family violence crime. We thank Governor Lamont for working to further strengthen Connecticut's response to family violence.

According to 18 USC 922(g)(9), anyone convicted of domestic violence is automatically disqualified from owning a gun. However, according to Connecticut state law, such individuals are not disqualified from holding a state gun permit or eligibility certificate. This forces the CT Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) to hold a time-consuming suitability hearing in each case.

We know that firearms and domestic violence are a deadly combination. Research out of Johns Hopkins University has demonstrated that domestic assaults involving firearms are 12 times more likely to result in death than those involving other weapons or bodily force, and women in an abusive relationship are 5 times more likely to be killed if their abuser has access to a firearm. In Connecticut, firearms remain the single most commonly used weapon in intimate partner homicides and nearly three quarters of all intimate partner murder/suicides are committed with a firearm. Just last year, in 2021, there were 11 intimate partner homicides and 7 of them were committed with a firearm.

CCADV supports commonsense gun safety measures that keep firearms out of the hands of known abusers. Anyone convicted of felony or misdemeanor domestic violence is already prohibited federally from possessing a firearm. The changes proposed in Sections 25 – 27 of Senate Bill 16 simply seek to align state gun permit laws with federal firearm possession laws making it clear who can and cannot possess a firearm, thereby limiting the need for DESPP to hold unnecessary administrative hearings. We urge the Committee's support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Liza Andrews
Director of Public Policy & Communications
landrews@ctcadv.org